

Dan Schwartz
State Treasurer



STATE OF NEVADA
OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER

For Immediate Release
3/1/2018

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STATE TREASURER: “K-12 EDUCATION IN NEVADA—IF WE MISS THE FLASHING LIGHTS, MAYBE WE’LL HEAR THE SIRENS”

Carson City, NV. Having reviewed N.R.S.’ “Title 34. Education” as well as oral and written testimony presented at our January 24 workshop, State Treasurer Dan Schwartz has issued the following statement.

“Safe to say, Nevada has an education crisis. We have spent billions and billions and billions on public education. And, the singular result has been that Nevada is ranked 50/50 among the states on three recent reports on public education, save one where we were ranked 51/50.

The Governor—whoever that may be—and Legislature must focus on one issue and one issue alone in 2019: ‘Education in Nevada.’ I am asking the Senate and the Assembly initially to put aside their traditional committee structure to give their undivided attention to this emergency. As is evident, this emergency cuts a wide swath across the entire Title 34.

“Specifically, I would ask that they review the following N.R.S. Sections:

N.R.S. 385 State Administrative Organization

- Complete the break-up of the Clark County School District into 5 independent districts. Consider creating independent school districts (ISD’s) where communities want to add to state and federal funding.
- Develop programs to involve parents in their child’s education as well as encouraging small businesses and larger corporations to contribute to the school system.

N.R.S. 387. Financial Support of School System.

- To redirect \$750 million in hotel room revenue taxes to our education system away from funding a \$2 billion football stadium in Las Vegas.
- Fund universal parental choice (ESAs).

N.R.S. 388. System of Public Instruction

- Education should be premised on creating career pathways for students who will not go to college while also creating “career paths” for students who are likely to attend college. Vocational training and training are just as important as college preparation. Students and their parents are free to choose, but let us start creating goals for our kids.

- Institute an effective pre-school program for children 3 and 4 years old.

N.R.S. 389. Academics and Textbooks

- Insuring English language literacy: reading, writing, and speaking should be the No. 1 goal. Proficiency in math will be the No. 2 goal. Learning a second language (Spanish) will be goal No. 3.

N.R.S. 390. Testing of Pupils and Graduation

- Develop Nevada's own testing system, which will provide insight into high school graduation rates and post-high school matriculation choices in vocational training or college matriculation.

N.R.S. 391. Personnel

- Beyond Governor Sandoval's focus on facilities, the state's education program should focus on teachers. Improving teacher education, teacher compensation, and teacher access to resources needed in the classroom should be among our objectives.
- Improve and streamline the licensing structure for non-traditional teachers as well as for substitutes and other teachers needed in the classroom.
- Reduce administrative layers "in the middle" between the State Superintendent and the High School principal.

N.R.S. 392. Pupils

- Better understand the role that poverty plays in a child's ability to learn. Fund ways to help hard-working parents to help their children in school: examples include quality childcare and available health care for families who cannot afford it.

"Needless to say, we should also review Title 34 for unnecessary, redundant, and wasteful mandates.

"This suggested review of Nevada's education system represents a starting point if we are to improve our education system, to the benefit of our children, their parents and the community as a whole."

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